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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

20 COLUMBIA PICTURES INDUSTRIES,  
21 INC., et al.,

22 Plaintiffs,

23 v.

24 GARY FUNG, et al.,

25 Defendants.

Case No. CV 06-5578-SVW (JCx)

DEFENDANTS' MEMORANDUM  
OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN  
OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS'  
MOTION FOR SUMMARY  
JUDGMENT ON WILLFUL AND  
INNOCENT INFRINGEMENT

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1      **I. INTRODUCTION**

2      Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment on Willful and Innocent  
3      Infringement ("Motion") is an improper attempt by Plaintiffs to short circuit their  
4      burden of proof for seeking enhanced statutory damages at trial. Despite having only  
5      ever identified forty-four of the thousands of works for which Plaintiffs claim they  
6      will seek damages, Plaintiffs claim that it is "undisputed" that Defendants acted  
7      willfully for purposes of enhanced damages as to each and every one of the as-yet-  
8      unnamed works and infringements they intend to pursue. Some of these purported  
9      infringements may have taken place years after the Court's original summary  
10     judgment finding on inducement liability. But willfulness is a species of causation that  
11     cannot be adjudicated in this case other than on a work by work basis, since  
12     enhancement of a particular statutory damage requires a showing of willful  
13     infringement of the work at issue. Because Plaintiffs have yet to identify the works in  
14     suit, it is impossible to determine whether any particular infringement was willful—or  
15     even committed. Plaintiffs' Motion offends basic notions of fairness and due process,  
16     and flies in the face of the Ninth Circuit's admonition against adopting a "loose"  
17     theory of causation when evaluating damages for inducement liability. Not only is  
18     Plaintiff's Motion premature, given that Defendants do not know what works or  
19     alleged infringements are at issue to defend against, or whether a finding of  
20     willfulness is appropriate regarding any particular alleged infringement, but it is also  
21     procedurally improper, filed years after the Court's deadline for filing dispositive  
22     motions, and without Plaintiffs ever having sought leave to do so during the recent  
23     briefing and hearing regarding the schedule for the damages phase of this case.

24      Because Plaintiffs have so far identified only forty-four of the thousands of  
25     works for which they intend to seek damages, their Motion is replete with untestable  
26     allegations in the guise of "undisputed facts" that are not "facts" at all. Plaintiffs  
27     nonetheless ask the Court to bypass the necessary fact-intensive inquiry of  
28     determining whether a particular infringement is willful, and instead issue a blanket

1 ruling that a finding of inducement liability for copyright infringement *per se* equates  
2 to a finding of willful copyright infringement for a limitless number of works before  
3 they are even named, *regardless* of any particular facts concerning the alleged  
4 infringements, and even if they occurred years after the finding of inducement  
5 liability. This is precisely the sort of “loose” causation theory the Ninth Circuit  
6 explicitly warned against when assessing damages, noting in particular that “proving  
7 that an entity had an unlawful purpose at a particular time in providing a product or  
8 service does not infinitely expand its liability in either temporal direction.” *Columbia*  
9 *Pictures Indus., Inc. v. Fung*, 710 F.3d 1020, 1038 (9th Cir. 2013) (“*Fung II*”).

10 Plaintiffs cite no authority for the proposition that inducement equates to willfulness  
11 at all, and certainly not regarding works and infringements that were not even at issue  
12 when this Court decided inducement, and infringements that may have taken place  
13 years afterward. Of course, no such authority exists. The Copyright Act offers no  
14 support for Plaintiffs’ Motion. The two out-of-district cases Plaintiffs do misleadingly  
15 cite are entirely distinguishable. Further, the notice-and-takedown procedures that  
16 Defendants model after the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (“DMCA”) create  
17 triable facts on willfulness sufficient to defeat summary judgment, even if Defendants  
18 were found not entitled to the DMCA safe harbor itself.

19 Until and unless Plaintiffs identify the works and infringement they intend to  
20 place at issue—and provide essential discovery on those works and infringements—  
21 any holding on willfulness would be premature at best. Plaintiffs have yet to provide  
22 that information, and indeed have provided *no* facts, disputed or otherwise, concerning  
23 any additional works. And even as to the forty-four works at issue during the initial  
24 summary judgment ruling, the Ninth Circuit made clear that there must be a more  
25 specific finding of causation to justify damages for each alleged infringement, and  
26 thus enhancing damages in the abstract would violate the Ninth Circuit’s directive.  
27 Plaintiffs’ motion is procedurally improper, substantively lacking, and should be  
28 denied.

1           **II. PROCEDURAL AND FACTUAL HISTORY**

2           Exactly seven years ago, on September 6, 2006, Plaintiffs filed this copyright  
 3 infringement lawsuit against Defendants. Dkt. 1 (Complaint). Plaintiffs served their  
 4 First Amended Complaint (“FAC”) on September 26, 2006. Dkt. 13 (FAC). Exhibit A  
 5 to Plaintiffs’ FAC was a list of 44 works, purportedly owned by Plaintiffs, that were  
 6 allegedly at issue in the Complaint. *Id.* The FAC referred to the Exhibit A list as a  
 7 “representative” list of works, but did not identify any other works at issue. *Id.* The  
 8 FAC has never been amended and is still the operative complaint in this matter.

9           On November 6, 2006, the Court bifurcated this case into liability and damages  
 10 phases for the purposes of discovery, summary judgment and trial. Dkt. 33 (11/6/06  
 11 Status Conference Minute Order). On August 13, 2007, the Court set a final deadline  
 12 of September 6, 2007 for filing summary judgment motions. Dkt. 209 at 2. Plaintiffs  
 13 filed their motion for summary judgment on liability on the deadline date. Dkt. 249  
 14 (Notice of Motion for Summary Judgment on Liability). The Court has not issued a  
 15 subsequent scheduling order setting any deadlines for discovery or additional  
 16 dispositive motions.

17           During the liability phase, Plaintiffs objected to and refused to respond to  
 18 discovery they claimed related to damages, including in response to Defendants’  
 19 Interrogatories and Document Requests. Smith Dec. ¶¶ 3-4, 6-7, Exs. B, D. In  
 20 response to Defendants’ Interrogatories, Plaintiffs resisted requests that they claimed  
 21 were “beyond the scope” of the “core liability issues as reflected by the representative  
 22 list of copyrighted works annexed as Exhibit A to the First Amended Complaint.” *Id.*  
 23 at ¶ 7 & Ex. D. Plaintiffs denied Defendants discovery on any but the 44  
 24 representative works, objecting to prior requests, interrogatories and 30(b)(6) topics as  
 25 outside the liability phase scope, but proper for damages. *Id.* ¶ 4, Ex. B (Plaintiffs’  
 26 Responses to Defendants’ Requests for Production of Documents, Set 2); *id.* ¶ 7,  
 27 Ex. D (Plaintiffs’ Objections to Defendants’ First Set of Interrogatories). Plaintiffs  
 28 also objected to Defendants’ discovery “to the extent that they seek discovery

1 concerning the total number of infringing works claimed by the plaintiffs in this case  
 2 and/or damages" and that "remedial issues such as these will be deferred until after  
 3 summary judgment proceedings on the core issue of defendants' secondary liability."

4 *Id.* Exs. B, D.

5 Plaintiffs also objected to the following five topics in connection with an *ex*  
 6 *parte* application regarding Defendants' 30(b)(6) notice. Smith Dec. Ex. F (Plaintiffs'  
 7 *Ex Parte* App. For Protective Order Re Rule 30(b)(6) Depositions). Plaintiffs  
 8 successfully resisted discovery that they claimed would not to be appropriate *until* the  
 9 damages phase:

- 10 • Topic 10: Any and all information related to primary infringement that occurred  
   11 in relation to use of or arising out of Defendants' Websites.
- 12 • Topic 12: Any and all information related to copyrighted works that were  
   13 downloaded in an unauthorized manner using any torrent file found via  
   14 Defendants' Websites.
- 15 • Topic 13: Any and all information related to Internet Files referenced by torrent  
   16 files obtained using the Defendants' Websites that MPAA and/or Plaintiffs or  
   17 their representatives actually listened to or viewed or analyzed.
- 18 • Topic 28: Any and all information related to communications, documents,  
   19 information, and data related to the number of downloads of plaintiffs'  
   20 copyrighted works arising out of torrent files downloaded using Defendants'  
   21 Websites.
- 22 • Topic 29: Any and all information related to plaintiffs' copyright registrations  
   23 for the copyrights mentioned in the complaint or at issue in this case.

24 *Id.* at 9-10.

25 As Plaintiffs argued in resisting this discovery regarding these topics earlier,  
 26 they "all get at one thing: plaintiffs' knowledge and evidence of direct infringement of  
 27 their copyrighted works through defendants' sites." *Id.* at 10. Plaintiffs recognized that  
 28 such "issue has obvious relevance to the case as a whole," and noted that they "do not

1 dispute that, at the appropriate time, defendants will have the opportunity to take  
 2 appropriate discovery as to all works directly infringed by defendants' users for which  
 3 plaintiffs are seeking to hold defendants liable as secondary copyright infringers." *Id.*  
 4 The time could not be more appropriate than now.

5 On July 1, 2013, the Court held its first Status Conference in this case since the  
 6 liability phase concluded. There, Defendants explained they would need time to  
 7 conduct discovery into the works in suit, which Plaintiffs have yet to identify. Dkt.  
 8 523 (Defendants' Response Plaintiffs' Request for Scheduling Conference) at 2:3-19.  
 9 On August 7, 2013, the Court set jury trial for the damages phase for November 5,  
 10 2013. Dkt. 554. In the same Order, the Court held that in order to be entitled to  
 11 statutory damages for works-in-suit, Plaintiffs must establish that (1) they own the  
 12 copyright in such work; and (2) that an American user downloaded a Dot-Torrent file  
 13 of that work from one of Defendants' Websites. Dkt. 554 at 5. The Court also ordered  
 14 that Plaintiffs identify the works for which they are actually seeking damages. To  
 15 date, Plaintiffs have refused to commit to a timeframe for doing so. Rule 56(d)  
 16 Declaration of Jennifer Golinveaux ("Rule 56 Dec.") at ¶ 7. Defendants have served  
 17 interrogatories and document requests seeking core information about Plaintiffs'  
 18 claims, including the identity and ownership of the works Plaintiffs intend to allege,  
 19 identification of direct infringements of Plaintiffs' works, evidence of causation, and  
 20 Plaintiffs' basis for calculating damages. Rule 56 Dec. at ¶¶ 3-5. Plaintiffs have not  
 21 yet responded.

22 **III. INDUCEMENT AND WILLFULNESS ARE DISTINCT LEGAL  
 23 THEORIES**

24 Inducement of infringement and willfulness have separate legal standards.  
 25 While both require intensive inquiry into the facts of the case, different facts are  
 26 relevant to each, such that a reasonable jury could find inducement without finding  
 27 willfulness as to particular infringements, and vice versa. Moreover, in light of the  
 28 fact-intensive nature of the inquiry, summary judgment on the issue of willfulness is  
 inappropriate.

1                   **A. Inducement and Willfulness Have Distinct Legal Standards**

2                   Under an inducement theory, “one who distributes a device [or offers a service]  
 3 with the object of promoting its use to infringe copyright, as shown by clear  
 4 expression or other affirmative steps taken to foster infringement, is liable for the  
 5 resulting acts of infringement by third parties.” *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios Inc. v.*  
 6 *Grokster, Ltd.*, 545 U.S. 913, 936-37 (2005). Inducement liability thus has four  
 7 required elements: (1) the distribution of a device or product, (2) acts of infringement,  
 8 (3) an object of promoting its use to infringe copyright, and (4) causation. *Fung II*,  
 9 710 F.3d at 1033.

10                  The Copyright Act provides that where the infringement was committed  
 11 willfully, “the court in its discretion may award [enhanced] statutory damages . . . for  
 12 the infringement of ***each particular work.***” *Sega Enters. Ltd. v. Sabella*, C 93-04260,  
 13 1996 WL 780560, \*16 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 18, 1996) (citing 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2))  
 14 (emphasis added); *Propet USA, Inc. v. Shugart*, C-06-0186, 2007 WL 4376201, \*2  
 15 (W.D. Wash. Dec. 13, 2007) (“the jury may have found [counter-defendant’s]  
 16 infringement willful and, consequently, found [counter-claimant] entitled to as much  
 17 as \$150,000 ***for each work found willfully infringed***”) (emphasis added). “[N]either  
 18 negligence nor mere ‘dreadful’ behavior suffice for a willfulness finding.” Patry on  
 19 Copyright § 22:180 (2013) (citing *Grateful Dead Prods., Inc. v. Auditory Odyssey*, 76  
 20 F.3d 386 (9th Cir. 1996) (unpublished opinion)). A plaintiff bears the burden to  
 21 establish that a defendant acted willfully in infringing his copyright. 17 U.S.C.  
 22 § 504(c)(2) (“the copyright owner [must] sustain[] the burden of proving . . . that  
 23 infringement was committed willfully”). While “[n]either the Copyright Act or its  
 24 legislative history defines ‘willful’ . . . [i]t seems clear that as here used ‘willfully’  
 25 means with knowledge that the defendant’s conduct constitutes copyright  
 26 infringement.”” *Peer Int’l Corp. v. Pausa Records, Inc.*, 909 F.2d 1332, 1335 n.3 (9th  
 27 Cir. 1990) (quoting 3 M. Nimmer & D. Nimmer, *Nimmer on Copyright* § 1404[B], at  
 28 14-40.2-3 (1989)); *see Dolman v. Agee*, 157 F.3d 708, 715 (9th Cir. 1998) (“In the

1 copyright infringement context, ‘willful’ means acting ‘with knowledge that [one’s]  
 2 conduct constitutes copyright infringement” (quoting *Columbia Pictures Television v.*  
 3 *Krypton Broad. of Birmingham, Inc.*, 106 F.3d 284, 293 (9th Cir. 1997), *rev’d on*  
 4 *other grounds by Feltner v. Columbia Pictures Television, Inc.*, 523 U.S. 340 (1998)).

5 Plaintiffs’ reliance on dicta from *Washington Shoe Co. v. A-Z Sporting Goods*  
 6 *Inc.*, 704 F.3d 668, 674 (9th Cir. 2012) for the proposition that “a finding of  
 7 ‘willfulness’ in [the copyright] context can be based on . . . merely ‘reckless’  
 8 behavior” (emphasis added) is misplaced. In *Washington Shoe*, the Ninth Circuit,  
 9 reversing a district court’s Rule 12 dismissal of copyright claims for lack of personal  
 10 jurisdiction, held that *if allegations* of willful copyright infringement were true, then  
 11 plaintiff had sufficiently alleged the defendant’s minimum contacts with the forum.  
 12 The court’s actual holding is jurisdictional, and rests on the uncontroversial  
 13 proposition that willfulness implies knowledge. The court’s decision did not reach the  
 14 merits of the copyright claims; did not consider issues or evidence going to damages;  
 15 and did not determine that the plaintiff had sustained its burden to show willfulness.<sup>1</sup>

## 16       B.     Inducement and Willfulness Require Distinct Factual Inquiries

17       A reasonable jury could find that facts tending to show inducement liability are  
 18 nevertheless not evidence of willfulness, and vice versa. Among the facts courts have  
 19 examined to determine whether inducement liability exists are: the scale of  
 20 infringement; the nature of a defendant’s advertising; the nature of a defendant’s  
 21 customer support; a defendant’s refusal to take simple steps to stop known  
 22 infringements; and whether the commercial sense of the enterprise turns on high-

23       

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<sup>1</sup> Moreover, *In re Barboza*, 545 F.3d 702 (9th Cir. 2008), the source of the “merely  
 24 reckless behavior” language quoted by the *Washington Shoe* court, used the phrase  
 25 only in the context of summarizing the standard for willfulness in “our sister circuits.”  
*Id.* at 707. While the *Barboza* court approved a lower court’s jury instruction on  
 26 willfulness, that instruction *did not include the term* “merely reckless.” *Id.* Even under  
 27 the standard for willfulness set by “sister circuits,” “merely reckless behavior” is  
 28 insufficient to show willfulness. Rather, at a minimum, a plaintiff “must show (1) that  
 the defendant was actually aware of the infringing activity, or (2) that the defendant’s  
 actions were the result of ‘reckless disregard’ for, or ‘willful blindness’ to, the  
 copyright holder’s rights.” *Island Software & Computer Serv., Inc. v. Microsoft Corp.*,  
 413 F.3d 257, 263 (2d Cir. 2005) (listing cases).

1 volume, infringing use. *Grokster*, 545 U.S. at 939-40. But courts typically examine  
 2 different factors in determining whether a defendant's conduct is willful. For example,  
 3 "one who has been notified that his conduct constitutes copyright infringement, but  
 4 who reasonably and in good faith believes the contrary," may not be a willful  
 5 infringer. *RCA/Ariola Int'l, Inc. v. Thomas & Grayson Co.*, 845 F.2d 773, 779 (8th  
 6 Cir. 1988) (quoting 3 M. Nimmer and D. Nimmer, *Nimmer on Copyright*  
 7 § 14.04[B][3] (1987)). A reasonable jury could nonetheless find such a defendant  
 8 liable for inducing copyright infringement. Conversely, "courts often award  
 9 heightened damages [for willfulness] where a defendant is a counterfeiter, . . . or if,  
 10 after receiving notice of Plaintiff's claims, [the defendant] takes no action to  
 11 investigate and merely continues its[] infringing behavior." *Schiffer Publ'g, Ltd. v.*  
 12 *Chronicle Books, LLC*, No. Civ.A.03-4962, 2005 WL 67077, \*5 (E.D. Pa. Jan. 11,  
 13 2005). Such facts might not affect a finding of inducement, however.

14 **C. The Facts Do Not Support Summary Judgment as to Willfulness**

15 Plaintiffs' untimely Motion is conspicuously devoid of *any* factual allegations  
 16 post-dating Plaintiffs' initial, authorized summary judgment motion, Dkt. 249  
 17 (Sept. 6, 2007). Every one of Plaintiffs' purported "facts" thus reflects Defendants'  
 18 actions as of nearly six years ago. There can be no dispute that these stale facts shed  
 19 no light on Defendants' state of mind after that time: "an individual or entity's  
 20 unlawful objective at [a particular] time . . . is not a virus that infects all future  
 21 actions." *Fung II*, 710 F.3d at 1038. Nor are Plaintiffs' alleged facts sufficient to show  
 22 that Defendants' conduct was willful at any time; nor, as the Ninth Circuit recognized,  
 23 do they suffice to show the causation required to prove damages at this phase of the  
 24 case. "In the present case, . . . causation, even in the relatively loose sense we have  
 25 delineated, cannot be assumed, even though fault is unquestionably present." *Id.* at  
 26 1038-39. Plaintiffs' alleged facts are thus too stale and lacking to support summary  
 27 judgment on willfulness, even as to the 44 works Plaintiffs initially identified, since  
 28 willfulness requires a different and distinct factual inquiry from the question of

1 inducement.

2 In addition, the undisputed material facts concerning numerous events that have  
3 occurred since the inception of this case also preclude summary judgment on  
4 willfulness:

5 • On or before October 3, 2007, Defendants blocked all U.S. access to their  
6 trackers, located at [podropolis.com](http://podropolis.com) and [torrentbox.com](http://torrentbox.com). This blocking  
7 categorically prevented any and all users with a United States IP address  
8 from using the trackers to infringe Plaintiffs' copyrighted works. Indeed, the  
9 blocking was massively over-inclusive, since it not only prevented  
10 infringement of Plaintiffs' works using the trackers, but it also prevented  
11 U.S. users from using the trackers to download any works that were  
12 licensed, or in the public domain, or whose distribution was authorized. To  
13 this day, Defendants continue to block U.S. access to the trackers.

14 Declaration of Gary Fung in Support of Defendants' Opposition to  
15 Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment on Willful and Innocent  
16 Infringement ("Fung Dec.") at ¶¶ 2-3.

17 • In April, 2010, Defendants began redirecting U.S. users to a separate  
18 service, "isoHunt Lite." *Id.* at ¶ 4. Only on or about November 1, 2010, once  
19 Defendants had ascertained that the isoHunt Lite site was a redundant  
20 precaution in light of the filtering on the main isoHunt site, did Defendants  
21 stop automatically redirecting U.S. users to isoHunt Lite. *Id.* at ¶ 8.

22 • On May 21, 2010, pursuant to the Court's Order for Permanent Injunction,  
23 Defendants began filtering isoHunt's search results for U.S. users, using lists  
24 of works that Plaintiffs provided. *Id.* at ¶ 5. Defendants have maintained and  
25 updated the filter as Plaintiffs have provided updated lists. *Id.* at ¶ 6.

26 • Since April, 2010, U.S. users have not been able to view lists of top  
27 downloads or top searches on the isoHunt main site or the isoHunt Lite site.  
28 *Id.* at ¶ 9. Nor have U.S. users been provided with a "categories" column in

## isoHunt search results. *Id.*

- Since April, 2010, isoHunt does not suggest searches to U.S. users, and does not auto-complete searches conducted by U.S. users. *Id.* at ¶ 10.

These undisputed facts are directly relevant to Plaintiffs' allegations of inducement and willfulness; are probative of Defendants' intent, knowledge, and state of mind; and create a genuine issue of material fact that precludes summary judgment. By contrast, Plaintiffs have offered *no* facts to support a finding of willfulness as to the infringement of any particular work.

#### D. Plaintiffs' Cited Cases Fail to Support Their Argument

The two out-of-circuit cases Plaintiffs cite fail to support their sweeping theory that willfulness “automatically follow[s]” from a finding of inducement liability. Plaintiffs argue that, because two New York district court cases found both inducement and willfulness “as a matter of law,” this Court should do the same.<sup>2</sup> But Plaintiffs grossly mischaracterize those holdings, and moreover both cases are easily distinguishable.

The court in *Usenet.com* did not, contrary to Plaintiffs' claim, find that willfulness "automatically followed" from a finding of inducement liability. Rather, the court merely upheld a magistrate judge's willfulness determination based on the court's previous findings. *Arista Records LLC v. Usenet.com, Inc.*, No. 07 Civ. 8822(HB), 2010 WL 3629587, \*5 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 16, 2010). Similarly, the *Limewire* court simply held, without analysis, that its "[previous] findings . . . [also] established . . . that Defendants' conduct was 'willful' within the meaning of Section 504(c)(2)." *Arista Records LLC v. Lime Group LLC*, No. 06 Civ. 5936 (KMW), at p.1 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 26, 2011) (Dkt. 712). In each of these cases, the court held that, on the particular facts and circumstances of the case, its findings that supported inducement liability were also sufficient to show willfulness. Neither court held that either inducement or

<sup>2</sup> Plaintiffs repeat the phrase “as a matter of law” nine times in the nine pages of their Motion—three times in a single paragraph—as if it were a talisman. Of course, summary judgment is judgment “as a matter of law” by definition. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a).

1 willfulness “automatically follow[s]” from the other, “as a matter of law” or  
 2 otherwise. And neither court stated, or even implied, that inducement and willfulness  
 3 were synonymous.<sup>3</sup>

4 Notably, in both cases, the plaintiffs identified all of their works at issue *before*  
 5 seeking a finding of willfulness and enhanced statutory damages. *See Arista Records*  
 6 *LLC v. Usenet.com, Inc.*, No. 07 Civ. 8822, 2010 WL 3629688, \*3-4 (S.D.N.Y. Feb.  
 7 2, 2010) (878 works identified); *Arista Records LLC v. Lime Group LLC*, No. 06 CV  
 8 5936, 2011 WL 1641978, \*1 (S.D.N.Y. Apr. 29, 2011) (11,205 works identified).

#### 9       **E.     Summary Judgment as to Willfulness Is Inappropriate**

10       “Generally, a determination as to willfulness requires an assessment of a party’s  
 11 state of mind, a factual issue that is not usually susceptible to summary judgment.”  
 12 *Sega Enters. Ltd. v. MAPHIA*, 948 F. Supp. 923, 936 (N.D. Cal. 1996) . Thus, the  
 13 determination of willfulness is ordinarily a question of fact for the jury. *Hearst Corp.*  
 14 *v. Stark*, 639 F. Supp. 970, 980 (N.D. Cal. 1986). In *Island Software & Computer*  
 15 *Serv. v. Microsoft Corp.*, 413 F.3d 257, 260-65 (2d Cir. 2005), the Second Circuit  
 16 overturned a district court’s summary judgment of willfulness even in the face of  
 17 “strong” evidence of willfulness, noting that there were “possible explanations which  
 18 would not constitute willfulness on [the defendant’s] part.” *Id.* at 264. Although “[a]  
 19 jury could, without doubt, conclude that [the defendant’s] statements reveal[ed]  
 20 willful blindness, or establish[ed] a pattern of conduct so unreasonable as to constitute  
 21 reckless disregard . . . it is not beyond peradventure that a reasonable jury would  
 22 conclude otherwise. And that is enough to make summary judgment on the issue of  
 23 willfulness inappropriate.” *Id.*; *see also Segrets, Inc. v. Gillman Knitwear Co., Inc.*,  
 24 207 F.3d 56, 66 (1st Cir. 2000) (reversing directed verdict of willfulness and  
 25 remanding to a jury; although plaintiff’s evidence was “strong,” “the issue of

26       <sup>3</sup> Plaintiffs cite this Court’s decision in *Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Inc. v.*  
 27 *Grokster, Ltd.*, 518 F. Supp. 2d 1197 (C.D. Cal. 2007) as being in “accord” with the  
 28 proposition that “induced infringement necessarily mean[s] that Defendants’ conduct  
 was willful as well.” Mot. at 7. That decision, however, merely noted “the potential  
 relationship between inducement and a finding of willfulness.” *Grokster*, 518 F. Supp.  
 2d at 1217 (emphasis added).

1 willfulness involves witness credibility, resolving conflicts in testimony, and  
 2 evaluating the weight of the evidence—steps courts are not permitted to take in the  
 3 directed verdict context”).

4 Because a jury may or may not conclude that Defendants were willful with  
 5 respect to the infringement of any particular work, the question of willfulness here  
 6 should go to the jury.

7 **IV. PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FAILS BECAUSE THERE EXIST GENUINE  
 8 ISSUES OF DISPUTED FACT AS TO WILLFULNESS**

9 **A. Plaintiffs' Motion Lacks Evidentiary Support Because Plaintiffs  
 Have Failed to Identify the Works at Issue**

10 Preliminarily, although Plaintiffs have stated that they intend to seek statutory  
 11 damages as to approximately “three to 5,000” additional works, Smith Dec. Ex. E  
 12 (July 1, 2013 Tr. at 6:4), to date they have identified a total of only *forty-four* works.  
 13 On its face, then, Plaintiffs’ claim that they have identified undisputed facts  
 14 concerning infringement is inaccurate, for—at least as to Plaintiffs’ unidentified  
 15 works—they have identified no “facts” to dispute. Moreover, Plaintiffs’ stale  
 16 allegations concerning Defendants’ “intent” are conspicuously devoid of any factual  
 17 allegations post-dating Plaintiffs’ initial, authorized summary judgment motion, Dkt.  
 18 391 (Dec. 21, 2009 Summary Judgment Order). Because Plaintiffs fail to allege any  
 19 new facts, they have also failed to carry their burden to show causation, even as to the  
 20 forty-four works that they identified in the liability phase of the case. *See Fung II*, 710  
 21 F.3d at 1038-39 (“causation . . . cannot be assumed, even though fault is  
 22 unquestionably present”).

23 As the Ninth Circuit emphasized, merely “proving that an entity had an  
 24 unlawful purpose at a particular time in providing a product or service does not  
 25 infinitely expand its liability in either temporal direction.” *Fung II*, 710 F.3d at 1038.  
 26 Plaintiffs’ Motion ignores the Ninth Circuit’s ruling, and assumes *sub silentio*—  
 27 without argument or authority—that this Court’s liability holding, which relied on  
 28 facts and actions that are now more than six years old, automatically applies to *every*

1 direct infringement of any of Plaintiffs' works, at any time, even in the absence of any  
 2 showing of causation. Even more problematically, Plaintiffs have so far failed even to  
 3 identify thousands of the works for which they eventually intend to allege copyright  
 4 claims, preventing Defendants from conducting essential discovery on, among other  
 5 things:

- 6     • The identity of the "three to 5,000" as-yet-unidentified works for which  
     7         Plaintiffs intend to allege claims and seek statutory damages;
- 8     • Plaintiffs' ownership of the works they intend to place at issue;
- 9     • The alleged direct infringement(s) of such work;
- 10     • When each such alleged direct infringement occurred;
- 11     • Whether any evidence exists that Defendants' acts induced such direct  
     12         infringement;
- 13     • If so, whether any evidence exists that those inducing acts caused such direct  
     14         infringement;
- 15     • If so, whether any evidence exists that Defendants acted willfully with  
     16         respect to such infringements;
- 17     • The basis on which Plaintiffs purport to calculate the appropriate level of  
     18         statutory damages for such infringements.

19     Plaintiffs have yet to respond to Defendants' discovery requests concerning this  
 20 essential information.<sup>4</sup>

21     The Ninth Circuit's admonition of the necessity to show causation applies with  
 22 full force to the forty-four works that Plaintiffs have actually identified: "[i]n the  
 23 present case, . . . where other individuals and entities provide services identical to  
 24 those offered by Fung, causation, even in the relatively loose sense we have  
 25 delineated, ***cannot be assumed.***" *Fung II*, 710 F.3d at 1038-39 (emphasis added). The  
 26 Ninth Circuit panel expressly held that causation must be shown *even* in an instance  
 27 where "fault is unquestionably present." *Id.*

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28     <sup>4</sup> Notably, Plaintiffs in this Motion do not argue—nor could they—that Defendants'  
 discovery requests are unnecessary or in any way improper.

1                   **B. Willfulness Should Be Assessed Separately as to Each Alleged Work**

2                   Courts routinely assess willfulness in the copyright context on a work-by-work  
 3 basis.<sup>5</sup> Numerous courts have found a defendant's infringements willful with respect  
 4 to only certain works at issue, but non-willful with respect to others. *See, e.g.*,  
 5 *Columbia Pictures Indus., Inc. v. Sandrow*, CIV. A. No. 87-3279, 1988 WL 28249, \*4  
 6 (E.D. Pa. Mar. 23, 1988) (finding "defendants' copyright infringement was not  
 7 wil[l]ful [for works infringed] prior to the receipt of [plaintiffs'] 'cease and desist'  
 8 letter" but was willful for works infringed thereafter; awarding damages  
 9 accordingly);<sup>6</sup> *Psihoyos v. John Wiley & Sons, Inc.*, 11 CIV. 1416, 2013 WL 1285153,  
 10 \*1 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 29, 2013) (in suit alleging copyright infringement as to four  
 11 photographs, jury found no infringement as to one photograph, non-willful  
 12 infringement as to a second photograph, and willful infringement as to the remaining  
 13 two photographs); *Video Views, Inc. v. Studio 21, Ltd.*, 925 F.2d 1010, 1020-21 (7th  
 14 Cir. 1991), *overruled on other grounds by Fogerty v. Fantasy, Inc.*, 510 U.S. 517  
 15 (1994) (where jury found that defendant had willfully infringed plaintiff's copyrights  
 16 in two out of seven films involved in the action, affirming district court's grant of  
 17 defendant's motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict because jury's verdict on  
 18 issue of willfulness was unsupported by the evidence).

19                   Here, Plaintiffs fail to show—or even to argue—that the facts and  
 20 circumstances surrounding any of the alleged infringements of their unidentified  
 21 works are so similar as to merit the same analysis. In particular, because Plaintiffs  
 22 have failed to identify the particular direct infringements for which they seek to hold  
 23 Defendants liable, Plaintiffs have failed to plead *any* facts to show Defendants' acts,  
 24 circumstances, or state of mind *at the time the direct infringements occurred*.

25                   <sup>5</sup> *See also*, in the trademark context, *adidas America, Inc. v. Payless Shoesource, Inc.*,  
 26 CV 01-1655, 2008 WL 4279812 (D. Or. Sept. 12, 2008) (noting that the jury at trial  
 27 separately considered trademark infringement and willfulness for each of 268 separate  
 267 of 268 lots).

28                   <sup>6</sup> The *Sandrow* plaintiffs included, among others, Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc.;  
 Paramount Pictures Corporation; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal  
 City Studios, Inc.; Walt Disney Co.; and Warner Bros. Inc.

1 Plaintiffs thus have *no* facts in the record to support their motion for summary  
 2 judgment as to any works other than the forty-four representative works identified in  
 3 their FAC. And, as to the forty-four works they have identified, the evidence they  
 4 have produced is relevant, at most, to a single, narrow window of time, and is  
 5 insufficient to establish willfulness because Plaintiffs have failed to show facts  
 6 supporting the requisite knowledge and intent.

7 **V. PLAINTIFFS' ARGUMENTS CONCERNING INNOCENT  
 8 INFRINGEMENT FAIL**

9 Plaintiffs argue that Defendants cannot establish a defense of innocent  
 10 infringement because any infringements for which Defendants may be found liable  
 11 were willful “as a matter of law.” Mot. at 7. This argument fails for all of the same  
 12 reasons Plaintiffs’ motion as to willfulness fails, including that Defendants blocked  
 13 (and continue to block) all access to their trackers for U.S. users, Fung. Dec. ¶¶ 2-3;  
 14 features of Defendants’ website that the Court found contributed to inducement of  
 15 copyright infringement are no longer available to U.S. users, *id.* ¶¶ 9-10; and  
 16 Defendants filter isoHunt’s search results for U.S. users, using lists of works provided  
 17 by Plaintiffs, *id.* ¶ 5.

18 Moreover, Plaintiffs’ allegations and declarations fail to state undisputed facts  
 19 sufficient for summary judgment. The Declaration of Joe Ruvalcaba<sup>7</sup> (Dkt. 561-1)  
 20 (“Ruvalcaba Dec.”) and Plaintiffs’ Motion are replete with equivocal statements that  
 21 fail to allege facts sufficient to support summary judgment. For example, Ruvalcaba  
 22 declares that Plaintiffs are among “the leading *producers* and *distributors* of filmed  
 23 entertainment,” Ruvalcaba Dec. ¶ 2 (emphasis added), but merely states that works  
 24 *published* by MPAA members “are published with copyright notices.” *Id.* ¶ 4.  
 25 Ruvalcaba’s declaration is silent as to whether Plaintiffs intend to put at issue any  
 26 works that are *produced* or *distributed* (but not published) by MPAA members. *Id.*

27  
 28 <sup>7</sup> Mr. Ruvalcaba’s declaration is also not made upon personal knowledge and is thus  
 inadmissible hearsay. *See* Defendants’ Statement of Genuine Disputes filed  
 concurrently with this response.

1 Ruvalcaba's declaration also is silent as to whether works distributed by—but *not*  
 2 produced by—MPAA members contain statutorily compliant copyright notices.  
 3 Similarly, Plaintiffs' Motion alleges vaguely that Plaintiffs “*consistently* affix notices  
 4 of copyright to their works.” Mot. at 7:23 (emphasis added). But does “*consistently*”  
 5 mean always? Almost always? Usually? Plaintiffs do not say.

6 Plaintiffs' argument that 17 U.S.C. § 401(d) precludes Defendants from  
 7 interposing a defense of innocent infringement fails for the additional reason that  
 8 Plaintiffs fail to show Defendants had access to copies of the work with statutorily  
 9 compliant copyright notices. *See Denenberg v. LED Techs., LLC*, No. 11-cv-03155,  
 10 2013 WL 2153290, \*2 (D. Colo. May 17, 2013) (where defendant argued it had  
 11 obtained infringing pictures from an independent source, “the fact that the [plaintiff’s  
 12 work] had a copyright notice would not provide the kind of notice that precludes the  
 13 defense of innocent infringement . . . [and] it [was] inappropriate to preclude argument  
 14 as to innocent infringement during trial”). In an apparent attempt to avoid having to  
 15 make such a showing, Plaintiffs have altered the quoted text of the Copyright Act in  
 16 their Motion. Mot. at 7:25 (altering statutory text of 17 U.S.C. § 401(d) to replace  
 17 definite article “the” with indefinite article “a”). Plaintiffs then proceed to argue from  
 18 the altered text that no one can be an innocent infringer as long as there is “available,”  
 19 somewhere in the world, “[a] published copy or copies” of the work at issue that bears  
 20 a copyright notice. In fact, the statutory text could not be clearer: the copyright notice  
 21 must appear on “**the** published copy or copies to which a defendant . . . had access.”  
 22 17 U.S.C. § 401(d) (emphasis added); *see Denenberg*, 2013 WL 2153290 at \*2; S.  
 23 REP. 100-352, at 44 (1988), reprinted in 1988 U.S.C.C.A.N. 3706, at 3741 (“the  
 24 proprietor must prove that the copies **to which the defendant had access** bore such  
 25 notice”) (emphasis added).

26 It is unsurprising that Plaintiffs' alleged “facts” are vague and equivocal, for the  
 27 simple reason that Plaintiffs have, to date, identified only forty-four of the “three to  
 28 5,000” works for which they intend ultimately to allege infringement and seek

1 damages. Smith Dec. ¶ 8, Ex. E at 7 (July 1, 2013 Tr. at 6:4). Defendants have had no  
 2 opportunity to conduct discovery on the unidentified works, so that Plaintiffs'  
 3 allegations of fact concerning works that they have failed to identify are meaningless  
 4 and utterly untestable. For example, Plaintiffs state that "Defendants had access to  
 5 those published works," Mot. at 8:10-11, but they have never actually *identified*  
 6 "those" published works. Simply put, to the extent Plaintiffs claim there is "no  
 7 genuine issue of material fact," that is because there *are* no facts. And even with  
 8 respect to the forty-four works Plaintiffs have identified, Ruvalcaba's declaration fails  
 9 to state facts sufficient to support summary judgment, for Ruvalcaba fails to identify  
 10 or even refer to the forty-four previously-identified works; fails to state that he has  
 11 inspected any of those works; and indeed fails to allege *any* specific facts as to *any* of  
 12 those works.

13 **VI. PLAINTIFFS' MOTION SHOULD BE DENIED BECAUSE IT IS  
 14 PROCEDURALLY IMPROPER**

15 **A. Plaintiffs' Motion Violates the Scheduling Order and Is Untimely**

16 Plaintiffs' Motion is also improper and untimely. The Court's operative  
 17 scheduling order, Dkt. 209, set a deadline of September 6, 2007 for summary  
 18 judgment motions. The Court has never amended its schedule, nor have Plaintiffs  
 19 requested such amendment. Indeed, Plaintiffs continue to oppose any such  
 20 amendment. Dkt. 572. And, although the deadline for dispositive motions is long past,  
 21 Plaintiffs have failed to seek leave of court to file their Motion, as Rule 16 requires.  
 22 Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4) ("A schedule may be modified only for good cause and with  
 23 the judge's consent.").<sup>8</sup>

24 **B. Plaintiffs' Motion Is in Essence an Improper Request for an  
 25 Advisory Opinion**

26 To the extent Plaintiffs have failed to identify the works that are the basis of

27  
 28 <sup>8</sup> Since filing this untimely motion, Plaintiffs have filed yet another motion for  
 summary judgment, again in violation of the Scheduling Order and without seeking  
 the Court's leave. Dkt. 565.

1 their copyright claims, their Motion does not concern a “live case or controversy”  
 2 before the Court. *See Ashcroft v. Mattis*, 431 U.S. 171, 172 (1977) (a “live case or  
 3 controversy” is one “which calls, not for an advisory opinion upon a hypothetical  
 4 basis, but for an adjudication of present right upon established facts”) (internal  
 5 quotation marks omitted). Here, Plaintiffs’ Motion provides *no* facts, established or  
 6 otherwise, with respect to *any* of the “three to 5,000” claims that Plaintiffs have yet to  
 7 identify—and which thus remain hypothetical, not actual, claims. There is no “case or  
 8 controversy” for the Court to resolve, and the Court should decline Plaintiffs’  
 9 invitation to issue such a sweeping and unwarranted decision.

10 **VII. IN THE ALTERNATIVE, THE COURT SHOULD DENY OR  
 11 CONTINUE PLAINTIFFS’ MOTION UNDER RULE 56(d) BECAUSE  
 12 PLAINTIFFS HAVE FAILED TO PROVIDE NECESSARY  
 13 DISCOVERY**

14 In the alternative, the Court should deny Plaintiffs’ Motion under Federal Rule  
 15 of Civil Procedure 56(d).

16 **A. Standard for Relief Under Rule 56(d)**

17 “If a nonmovant shows by affidavit or declaration that, for specified reasons, it  
 18 cannot present facts essential to justify its opposition, the court may: (1) defer  
 19 considering the motion or deny it; (2) allow time . . . to take discovery; or (3) issue  
 20 any other appropriate order.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(d). “Where . . . a summary judgment  
 21 motion is filed . . . before a party has had any realistic opportunity to pursue discovery  
 22 relating to its theory of the case, district courts should grant any Rule 56([d]) motion  
 23 fairly freely.” *Burlington N. Santa Fe R.R. Co. v. Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of Fort*  
*24 Peck Reservation*, 323 F.3d 767, 773 (9th Cir. 2003); *Portland Retail Druggists Ass’n*  
*25 v. Kaiser Found. Health Plan*, 662 F.2d 641, 643 (9th Cir. 1981) (“sufficient time  
 26 [must] be afforded for discovery necessary to develop facts essential to justify [a  
 27 party’s] opposition to the motion”) (internal quotation marks omitted); *Int’l Raw*  
*28 Materials, Ltd. v. Stauffer Chem. Co.*, 898 F.2d 946, 949 (3rd Cir. 1990) (where  
 essential facts are in the moving party’s exclusive possession, “a continuance of a

1 motion for summary judgment for purposes of discovery should be granted almost as  
 2 a matter of course") (internal quotation marks omitted); *Metabolife Int'l, Inc. v.*  
 3 *Wornick*, 264 F.3d 832, 846 (9th Cir. 2001) ("the Supreme Court has restated [Rule  
 4 56(d)] as requiring, rather than merely permitting, discovery where the nonmoving  
 5 party has not had the opportunity to discover information that is essential to its  
 6 opposition") (internal quotation marks omitted). Denial of a party's Rule 56(d)  
 7 application "is especially inappropriate where . . . the material sought is also the  
 8 subject of outstanding discovery requests." *Burlington*, 323 F.3d at 775 (quoting *VISA*  
 9 *Int'l Serv. Ass'n v. Bankcard Holders of Am.*, 784 F.2d 1472, 1475 (9th Cir. 1986)).

10 **B. Defendants Are Entitled to Rule 56(d) Relief**

11 "[W]here, as in the present litigation, no discovery whatsoever has taken place,  
 12 the party making a Rule 56([d]) motion cannot be expected to frame its motion with  
 13 great specificity as to the kind of discovery likely to turn up useful information, as the  
 14 ground for such specificity has not yet been laid." *Burlington*, 323 F.3d at 774.  
 15 Plaintiffs have for years insisted that the time was not yet ripe for *any* discovery into  
 16 matters implicated in the second phase of the case. Plaintiffs repeatedly objected to  
 17 and refused to respond to discovery requests that they claimed were "beyond the  
 18 scope" of the "core liability issues as reflected by the representative list of copyrighted  
 19 works annexed as Exhibit A to the First Amended Complaint." Smith Dec. Exs. B, D.

20 Plaintiffs' failure to identify the works at issue—let alone provide discovery  
 21 concerning such works—has precluded Defendants from presenting "facts essential to  
 22 . . . its opposition." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(d). In keeping with fundamental due process  
 23 and basic notions of fairness, pursuant to Rule 56(d), and for all the reasons set forth  
 24 above, the Court should deny Plaintiffs' untimely and unfounded Motion. In the  
 25 alternative, Defendants respectfully request that the Court continue the Motion until  
 26 such time as Defendants have been permitted to conduct essential discovery, and issue  
 27 an order for discovery as set forth in Defendants' Ex Parte Request for Scheduling  
 28 Order, Dkt. 570. Defendants have served interrogatories and document requests

1 seeking core information about Plaintiffs' claims, including the identity and  
 2 ownership of the works Plaintiffs intend to allege, identification of direct  
 3 infringements of Plaintiffs' works, evidence of causation, and Plaintiffs' basis for  
 4 calculating damages. Rule 56 Dec. at ¶¶ 3-5. Plaintiffs have not yet responded.<sup>9</sup>

5 **VIII. CONCLUSION**

6 Despite having identified only about one percent of the works for which  
 7 Plaintiffs' claim they will seek damages and having failed to provide Defendants with  
 8 necessary discovery, Plaintiffs ask the Court to grant summary judgment with respect  
 9 to willful and innocent infringement. The Court should decline Plaintiffs' invitation to  
 10 short-circuit the fact-intensive inquiry required to determine whether Defendants'  
 11 particular acts were willful or innocent infringement, and should not permit Plaintiffs  
 12 to proceed with obtaining a windfall of statutory damages without the necessity of  
 13 carrying their burden of proof. Plaintiffs' Motion is procedurally infirm and legally  
 14 unfounded; it offends basic notions of fairness and due process, and ignores the Ninth  
 15 Circuit's cautions about the need to show causation. It should be denied.

16  
 17 Dated: September 6, 2013

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18  
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32  
 33 <sup>9</sup> The court may "issue any other appropriate order" where facts necessary to oppose  
 34 summary judgment are unavailable, Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(d)(3), or "[i]f a party fails to  
 35 properly support an assertion of fact," *id.* 56(e)(4). The choice among possible orders  
 36 "should be designed to encourage proper presentation of the record." Adv. Comm.  
 37 Note to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(e)(4) (2010).